

# THE GROUP GENERATED BY GAMMA FUNCTIONS $\Gamma(ax + 1)$ , AND ITS SUBGROUP OF THE ELEMENTS CONVERGING TO CONSTANTS

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be the multiplicative group generated by the gamma functions  $\Gamma(ax + 1)$  ( $a = 1, 2, \dots$ ), and  $H$  be the subgroup of all elements of  $G$  that converge to nonzero constants when  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . The quotient group  $G/H$  is the group of equivalence classes of  $G$ , where  $f$  and  $g$  are equivalent  $\iff f \sim Cg$  ( $x \rightarrow \infty$ ) for some  $C \neq 0$ . We show that  $G/H \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+$ . Similar consideration is possible for the case that the gamma functions  $\Gamma(ax + 1)$  with  $a \in \mathbb{R}^+$  are concerned, and we show that  $G/H \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ .

Also, several concrete examples of the elements of  $H$  are constructed, e.g., it holds that  $\frac{\binom{18n}{12n, 3n, 3n}}{\binom{18n}{9n, 8n, n}} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$  ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), where  $\binom{*,*,*}{*,*,*}$  denotes a multinomial coefficient.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper, let  $\mathbb{P}$  denote the set of all positive integers,  $\mathbb{N}$  denote the set of all nonnegative integers,  $\mathbb{Q}^+$  denote the multiplicative group of all positive rational numbers, and  $\mathbb{R}^+$  denote the multiplicative group of all positive real numbers.

Let  $G$  be the multiplicative group generated by the gamma functions  $\Gamma(ax + 1)$  ( $a \in \mathbb{P}$ ), and  $H$  be the subgroup of all elements of  $G$  that converge to nonzero constants when  $x \rightarrow \infty$ . By using the notation:

$$M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} = M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}(x) = \frac{\prod_{k=1}^s \Gamma(a_k x + 1)}{\prod_{k=1}^t \Gamma(b_k x + 1)}, \quad (1)$$

we have

$$G = \{M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \mid a_1, \dots, a_s, b_1, \dots, b_t \in \mathbb{P}; s, t \in \mathbb{N}\}. \quad (2)$$

Here, when  $st = 0$ ,  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}$  becomes  $M^{a_1, \dots, a_s}$ ,  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}$ , or  $M = 1$ .

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We consider the quotient group  $G/H$ , which is the group of equivalence classes of  $G$ , where  $f$  and  $g$  are defined to be equivalent when  $f \sim Cg$  ( $x \rightarrow \infty$ ) for some nonzero constant  $C$ . We show the following.

**Theorem 1.** *It holds that  $G \simeq G/H \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+$ .*

Similar consideration is possible for the case that the gamma functions  $\Gamma(ax + 1)$  with  $a \in \mathbb{R}^+$  are taken as the generators. Let  $\tilde{G}$  be the multiplicative group generated by  $\Gamma(ax + 1)$  ( $a \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ), and  $\tilde{H}$  be the subgroup of all elements of  $\tilde{G}$  that converge to nonzero constants when  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 2.** *It holds that  $\tilde{G}/\tilde{H} \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ .*

In Section 3, we study concrete elements of  $H$  in a combinatorial context. For partitions  $\lambda, \mu$ , a primitive solution  $(\lambda; \mu)$  to the condition for  $M_\mu^\lambda \in H$  is defined, and we prove that there exists a primitive solution of length exceeding  $n$  for every integer  $n$ . Several concrete examples of the primitive solutions are also given.

## 2. HOMOMORPHISMS AND PROOFS

First we show a limit lemma for the elements of  $G$ :

**Lemma 1.**

$$M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}(x) \sim \sqrt{\frac{a_1 \dots a_s}{b_1 \dots b_t}} (2\pi x)^{\frac{s-t}{2}} \left(\frac{x}{e}\right)^{x(\sum_{k=1}^s a_k - \sum_{k=1}^t b_k)} \left(\frac{a_1^{a_1} \dots a_s^{a_s}}{b_1^{b_1} \dots b_t^{b_t}}\right)^x. \quad (3)$$

$(x \rightarrow \infty)$

*Proof.* This is a direct consequence of Stirling's formula:  $\Gamma(x + 1) \sim \sqrt{2\pi x} \left(\frac{x}{e}\right)^x$ . Put  $x \rightarrow ax$  and calculate  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}(x)$ .  $\square$

By this lemma, we have the condition for the elements of  $G$  to be contained in  $H$ . Indeed,  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}(x)$  converges to a nonzero constant if and only if the three factors  $(2\pi x)^{\frac{s-t}{2}}$ ,  $\left(\frac{x}{e}\right)^{x^*}$ ,  $(***)^x$  of (3) are constants equal to 1.

**Lemma 2.** *For  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \in H$ , it is necessary and sufficient that (i)  $s = t$ , (ii)  $\sum_{k=1}^s a_k = \sum_{k=1}^t b_k$ , and (iii)  $a_1^{a_1} \dots a_s^{a_s} = b_1^{b_1} \dots b_t^{b_t}$ .*

Hereafter, we consider homomorphisms from  $G$  to certain groups for the preparation of a proof of Theorem 1. Let  $\tilde{Q}$  denote the multiplicative group generated by  $\{p^p \mid p : \text{a prime}\}$ . Let  $\phi_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) be homomorphisms defined below:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1 : G &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} : M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \longmapsto s - t \\ \phi_2 : G &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} : M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \longmapsto \sum_{k=1}^s a_k - \sum_{k=1}^t b_k \\ \phi_3 : G &\longrightarrow \tilde{Q} : M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \longmapsto \frac{a_1^{a_1} \dots a_s^{a_s}}{b_1^{b_1} \dots b_t^{b_t}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

This definition is possible because each element of  $G$  is uniquely expressed by the symbol  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}$  except a permutation of indices and a cancellation of identical upper/lower indices. Then we have a homomorphism:

$$\Phi : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \tilde{Q} : g \longmapsto (\phi_1(g), \phi_2(g), \phi_3(g)). \quad (5)$$

**Lemma 3.**  $\Phi$  is a surjection.

*Proof.* To begin with we note that  $\phi_3$  is well defined, say,  $\phi_3(G) \subset \tilde{Q}$ . Take any  $g = M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \in G$ . If  $a_1 = p^e m$  and  $p \nmid m$  for a prime factor  $p$ , we have  $a_1^{a_1} = (p^e m)^{p^e m} = p^{p(p^{e-1}em)} m^{a_1}$ . Hence there exist prime numbers  $p_1, \dots, p_l$ , and integers  $e_1, \dots, e_l$  such that

$$\frac{a_1^{a_1} \dots a_s^{a_s}}{b_1^{b_1} \dots b_t^{b_t}} = \prod_{k=1}^l p_k^{p_k e_k}, \quad (6)$$

and therefore  $\phi_3(G) \subset \tilde{Q}$ . Next we confirm that  $\phi_3$  is a surjection. For an arbitrary element  $y = \frac{p_1^{p_1} \dots p_s^{p_s}}{q_1^{q_1} \dots q_t^{q_t}}$  of  $\tilde{Q}$  with prime numbers  $p_1, \dots, p_s, q_1, \dots, q_t$  (repetition allowed), taking  $g = M_{q_1, \dots, q_t}^{p_1, \dots, p_s}$ , we have  $y = \phi_3(g)$ .

Now, we prove  $\Phi$  is a surjection. Let  $(d, l, y)$  be an arbitrary element of  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \tilde{Q}$ . Since  $\phi_3$  is a surjection, we have  $y = \phi_3(g)$  for some  $g = M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s} \in G$ . If  $\phi_1(g) \neq d$ , we can take  $g_1 = M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s, 1, \dots, 1}$  or  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_t, 1, \dots, 1}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}$  such that  $\phi_1(g_1) = d$ ,  $\phi_3(g_1) = y$ . If  $\phi_2(g_1) = m \neq l$ , consider  $g_2 = M_{6, 2, 1}^{4, 3, 3}$ . We see  $\Phi(g_2) = (0, 1, 1)$ . Thus, letting  $g_3 = g_1 g_2^{l-m}$ , we have  $\Phi(g_3) = (d, l, y)$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* (i)  $G \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+$ : The mapping:  $\psi : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}^+$  defined by

$$\psi(M_{b_1, \dots, b_t}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}) = \frac{p_{a_1} \dots p_{a_s}}{p_{b_1} \dots p_{b_t}} \quad (7)$$

is confirmed to be an isomorphism, where  $p_i$  denotes the  $i$ -th prime.

(ii)  $G/H \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+$ : Apply the fundamental homomorphism theorem:  $G/\ker \Phi \simeq \Phi(G)$  to the above-defined  $\Phi : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \tilde{Q}$ . By definition of  $\Phi$  and Lemma 2,  $\ker \Phi = H$ . Hence, together with Lemma 3, we have  $G/H \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \tilde{Q}$ .

There exist isomorphisms  $i : \tilde{Q} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}^+$  and  $j : \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Q}^+ \longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}^+$  defined by  $i(p^p) = p$  for every prime  $p$  and

$$j(n, 2^{n_2} 3^{n_3} 5^{n_5} \dots) = 2^n 3^{n_2} 5^{n_3} \dots \quad (8)$$

Therefore

$$\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \tilde{Q} \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Q}^+ \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+. \quad (9)$$

This proves  $G/H \simeq \mathbb{Q}^+$ .  $\square$

Next, we extend the homomorphism  $\Phi$  to  $\tilde{\Phi}$  defined on  $\tilde{G}$  in order to prove Theorem 2. For that purpose we extend the homomorphisms  $\phi_i$  to  $\tilde{\phi}_i$  defined on  $\tilde{G}$  by the correspondence formulas used in (4). Then  $\tilde{\Phi}$  is extended to a homomorphism:

$$\tilde{\Phi} : \tilde{G} \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+ : g \longmapsto (\tilde{\phi}_1(g), \tilde{\phi}_2(g), \tilde{\phi}_3(g)). \quad (10)$$

**Lemma 4.**  $\tilde{\Phi}$  is a surjection.

*Proof.* Let  $(d, x, y)$  be an arbitrary element of  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+$ . Clearly  $\tilde{\phi}_3(g) = y$  for some  $g \in \tilde{G}$ . In a similar manner as in the proof of Lemma 3, we have  $\tilde{\phi}_1(g_1) = d$  and  $\tilde{\phi}_3(g_1) = y$  for some  $g_1 \in \tilde{G}$ . Now take  $\eta \in (1/e^{1/e}, 1)$ , then  $x^x = \eta$  has distinct two real solutions  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in (0, 1)$ . Let  $M_{\theta_1}^{\theta_2} = g(\eta)$ , then  $\tilde{\Phi}(g(\eta)) = (0, \theta_1 - \theta_2, 1)$ , where  $\theta_1 - \theta_2$  takes an arbitrary nonzero value in  $(-1, 1)$  depending on  $\eta$ . Hence choosing suitable  $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_l$ , we have  $g_2 = g_1 g(\eta_1) \dots g(\eta_l)$  such that  $\tilde{\Phi}(g_2) = (d, x, y)$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Apply again the fundamental homomorphism theorem to  $\tilde{\Phi}$ . We have

$$\tilde{G}/\tilde{H} = \tilde{G}/\ker \tilde{\Phi} \simeq \tilde{\Phi}(\tilde{G}) = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^+ \simeq \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}. \quad (11)$$

$\square$

### 3. PARTITIONS AND PRIMITIVE SOLUTIONS

In this section, we construct concrete examples of the elements of  $H$ , and study primitive solutions defined below corresponding to such elements  $M_{b_1, \dots, b_s}^{a_1, \dots, a_s}(x)$  of  $H$  that generate  $H$  by ordinary multiplication and the variable transformation  $x \rightarrow kx$  for every positive integer  $k$ .

A partition of a positive integer  $n$  is a weakly decreasing sequence of positive integers:  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_s)$  such that  $|\lambda| = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_s = n$ . Each  $\lambda_i$  is called a part of  $\lambda$  and the integer  $s$  is called the length of  $\lambda$  denoted by  $l(\lambda)$ . Let  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_s)$  and  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_t)$  be partitions of length  $s$  and  $t$ , respectively. Set  $M_{\mu}^{\lambda} = M_{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_t}^{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_s}$ , then any element of  $G$  is expressed in this form. Denote  $\lambda^{\lambda} = \lambda_1^{\lambda_1} \dots \lambda_s^{\lambda_s}$ ;  $k\lambda = (k\lambda_1, \dots, k\lambda_s)$  for a positive integer  $k$ ; and denote by  $\lambda \oplus \tilde{\lambda}$ , the rearrangement of  $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_s, \tilde{\lambda}_1, \dots, \tilde{\lambda}_{s'})$  in decreasing order. The condition for  $M_{\mu}^{\lambda} \in H$  in Lemma 2 is rewritten as

$$(i) \ l(\lambda) = l(\mu) \quad (ii) \ |\lambda| = |\mu| \quad (iii) \ \lambda^{\lambda} = \mu^{\mu}. \quad (12)$$

Equations (12) have always solutions  $\lambda = \mu$ , which we call trivial solutions. For every solution  $(\lambda; \mu)$  to (12),  $l(\lambda) = l(\mu)$  and  $|\lambda| = |\mu|$  are called the length and the size of the solution, respectively. The solutions  $(\lambda; \mu)$  and  $(\mu; \lambda)$  are usually identified. If  $(\lambda; \mu)$  is a solution, then  $k(\lambda; \mu) = (k\lambda; k\mu)$  is also a solution for every positive integer  $k$ , because

$$(k\lambda)^{k\lambda} = k^{k|\lambda|} (\lambda^{\lambda})^k = k^{k|\mu|} (\mu^{\mu})^k = (k\mu)^{k\mu}. \quad (13)$$

These solutions are called equivalent to each other. In addition, if two solutions  $(\lambda; \mu)$ ,  $(\tilde{\lambda}; \tilde{\mu})$  of positive lengths exist, then  $(\lambda; \mu) \oplus (\tilde{\lambda}; \tilde{\mu}) = (\lambda \oplus \tilde{\lambda}; \mu \oplus \tilde{\mu})$  is also a solution, decomposable into two solutions. Hence it is important to find nontrivial solutions that can not be written in the form  $k(\lambda; \mu)$  ( $k \geq 2$ ) nor  $(\lambda; \mu) \oplus (\tilde{\lambda}; \tilde{\mu})$ , which we call primitive solutions. It is easily seen that there are no nontrivial solutions of length  $\leq 2$ .

**Theorem 3.** *For every positive integer  $n$ , there exists a primitive solution to (12) of length exceeding  $n$ .*

*Proof.* For convenience, we sometimes use the notation  $\binom{\lambda}{\mu}$  for a solution  $(\lambda; \mu)$  to (12). Also, we denote by  $\{\lambda\}$  the multiset which consists of all parts of  $\lambda$ . We prove that the following is a primitive solution to (12) for  $n \geq 8$ :

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} 2^n, \quad 2^{n-2}, 2^{n-2}, \quad \overbrace{2, 2, \dots, 2}^{2^{n-2}}, \quad \overbrace{2, 2, \dots, 2}^{2^{n-2}}, \quad \overbrace{2, 2, \dots, 2}^{2^{n-2}} \\ 2^{n-1}, \quad 2^{n-1}, 2^{n-1}, \quad \overbrace{4, 4, \dots, 4}^{2^{n-2}}, \quad \overbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}^{2^{n-2}}, \quad \overbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}^{2^{n-2}} \end{array} \right). \quad (14)$$

One can confirm that (14) is a solution of length  $3 \times 2^{n-2} + 3$  and of size  $3 \times 2^n$ , and that  $\lambda^\lambda = \mu^\mu = 2^{2^{n-1}(3n+1)}$ . It is also clear that (14) is not a  $k$  times multiple of some solution for  $k \geq 2$ . Thus it suffices to show that (14) is not decomposable into two solutions.

Suppose (14) is decomposed into  $(\sigma; \tau) \oplus (\tilde{\sigma}; \tilde{\tau})$ . Write (14) as  $\binom{\lambda}{\mu} = \binom{\lambda^1, \lambda^2}{\mu^1, \mu^2}$ , where  $\lambda^1$  is the first three parts of  $\lambda$ ,  $\lambda^2$  is the rest of it, and  $\mu^1, \mu^2$  are defined similarly. If  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  are composed by choosing only the parts of  $\lambda^2$  and  $\mu^2$ , respectively, then from  $|\sigma| = |\tau|$ , it follows that  $\binom{\sigma}{\tau}$  is consist of the blocks  $\binom{2}{4, 1, 1}$ , which contradicts  $\sigma^\sigma = \tau^\tau$ . For the case that  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  contain only some parts of  $\lambda^1$  and  $\mu^2$  (or  $\lambda^2$  and  $\mu^1$ ), respectively, the only possibility is  $n = 2, 4$  ( $n = 2$ ). Also, it is clearly impossible that  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  could contain only some parts of  $\lambda^1$  and  $\mu^1$ , respectively. Thus we should deal with the case that  $\sigma$  contains both parts of  $\lambda^1$  and  $\lambda^2$  or  $\tau$  contains both parts of  $\mu^1$  and  $\mu^2$ . If  $\sigma$  contains all parts of  $\lambda^1$  and  $\tau$  contains no parts of  $\mu^1$ , we have

$$\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} \geq \frac{2^{n2^n} 2^{(n-2)2^{n-2} \times 2}}{2^{8 \times 2^{n-2}}} = 2^{(3n-6)2^{n-1}} > 1 \quad (15)$$

for  $n \geq 3$ . The alternative case that  $\sigma$  contains no parts of  $\lambda^1$  and  $\tau$  contains all parts of  $\mu^1$  is very similar. Hence we consider the case that  $\sigma$  or  $\tau$  has a nonempty proper submultiset of  $\{\lambda^1\}$  or  $\{\mu^1\}$  as parts, respectively. (The other cases already appear above for  $(\sigma; \tau)$  or  $(\tilde{\sigma}; \tilde{\tau})$ .) If  $\{\sigma\} \cap \{\lambda^1\} = \{2^{n-2}\}$  and  $\{\tau\} \cap \{\mu^1\} = \emptyset$  (as multiset), then

$$\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} \geq \frac{2^{(n-2)2^{n-2}} 2^{2 \times (2^{n-2}-1)}}{2^{8 \times 2^{n-2}}} = 2^{(n-8)2^{n-2}-2}. \quad (16)$$

Hence for  $n \geq 9$ ,  $\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} > 1$ , and so  $(\sigma; \tau)$  is not a solution. For  $n = 8$ , the only possibility that fits  $\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} = 1$  is

$$(2^{n-2}, \underbrace{2, 2, \dots, 2}_{2^{n-2}}; \underbrace{4, 4, \dots, 4, 1}_{2^{n-2}}), \quad (17)$$

but  $|\sigma| \neq |\tau|$ . Therefore, for  $n \geq 8$ ,  $(\sigma; \tau)$  is not a solution.

If  $\{\sigma\} \cap \{\lambda^1\} = \{2^{n-2}\}$  and  $\{\tau\} \cap \{\mu^1\} = \{2^{n-1}\}$ , then

$$\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} \leq \frac{2^{(n-2)2^{n-2}} 2^{2 \times 2^{n-2} \times 3}}{2^{(n-1)2^{n-1}}} = 2^{(6-n)2^{n-2}}. \quad (18)$$

Hence for  $n \geq 7$ ,  $(\sigma; \tau)$  is not a solution.

Although we can proceed in the similar manner to the goal, we give one more case  $\{\sigma\} \cap \{\lambda^1\} = \{2^{n-2}, 2^{n-2}\}$  and  $\{\tau\} \cap \{\mu^1\} = \{2^{n-1}\}$  that has a little different flavor. Let  $\sigma^2$  be the partition consists of the parts of  $\sigma$  contained in  $\lambda^2$ , and  $\tau^2$  be defined similarly. Since  $2^{n-2} + 2^{n-2} = 2^{n-1}$ , we have  $|\sigma^2| = |\tau^2|$ . As  $\frac{2^{(n-2)2^{n-2}} 2^{(n-2)2^{n-2}}}{2^{(n-1)2^{n-1}}} = 2^{-2^{n-1}} < 1$ ,

$\tau$  contains 1 parts, and by parity, at least two 1 parts. For the partition  $\tilde{\sigma}^2$  obtained by exclusion of a 2 part from  $\sigma^2$ , and the partition  $\tilde{\tau}^2$  obtained by exclusion of two 1 parts from  $\tau^2$ , we have  $|\tilde{\sigma}^2| = |\tilde{\tau}^2|$  and  $l(\tilde{\sigma}^2) = l(\tilde{\tau}^2)$ . Hence  $\binom{\tilde{\sigma}^2}{\tilde{\tau}^2}$  is composed of the blocks  $\binom{2,2,2}{4,1,1}$ , and therefore

$$\frac{\sigma^\sigma}{\tau^\tau} = 2^{-2^{n-1}} 2^{-2s} 2^2 = 2^{-2^{n-1}-2(s-1)} = 1. \quad (19)$$

This fails for all  $n \geq 3$ .  $\square$

The solution (14) is primitive also for  $n = 6, 7$ , which is confirmed by showing the equations:

$$\begin{cases} a + b + c = d + e + f \\ 2^n a + 2^{n-2} b + 2c = 2^{n-1} d + 4e + f \\ 2^{n^2} a 2^{(n-2)} 2^{n-2} b 2^{2c} = 2^{(n-1)} 2^{n-1} d 2^{8e} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

have no solution  $(a, b, c, d, e, f)$  of nonnegative integers with  $a \leq 1, b \leq 2, c \leq 3 \times 2^{n-2}, d \leq 3, e \leq 2^{n-2}, f \leq 2^{n-1}$  for  $n = 6, 7$ , except 0 or  $(1, 2, 3 \times 2^{n-2}, 3, 2^{n-2}, 2^{n-1})$ . However, for  $n = 5$ , (14) is decomposed into:

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} 8, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 \\ 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 \end{array} \right) \oplus \left( \begin{array}{c} 32, 8, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 \\ 16, 16, 16, 4, 4, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 \end{array} \right). \quad (21)$$

By computational calculation, many primitive solutions of length  $\geq 4$  are easily found (several examples are listed below). However, no solutions of length 3 are found except ones equivalent to  $(12, 3, 3; 9, 8, 1)$  for the size  $\leq 2000$ .

length	primitive solutions
3	$\binom{12,3,3}{9,8,1}$
4	$\binom{9,4,4,2}{6,6,6,1}$
5	$\binom{10,4,2,2,2}{8,5,5,1,1}, \binom{8,3,3,3,3}{6,6,4,2,2}, \binom{16,6,3,3,2}{12,8,8,1,1}, \binom{14,6,4,3,3}{12,7,7,2,2}, \binom{12,5,5,4,4}{10,8,6,3,3}$
6	$\binom{6,2,2,2,2,2}{4,4,3,3,1,1}, \binom{8,3,3,2,2,2}{6,4,4,4,1,1}, \binom{10,3,3,3,3,2}{6,6,5,5,1,1}, \binom{12,5,5,2,2,2}{10,6,6,4,1,1}, \binom{12,4,4,3,3,2}{8,6,6,6,1,1}, \binom{10,6,3,3,3,3}{9,5,5,4,4,1}, \binom{10,4,4,4,3,3}{8,6,5,5,2,2}, \binom{10,9,4,2,2,2}{12,5,5,3,3,1}$
7	$\binom{9,2,2,2,2,2,2}{6,6,3,3,1,1,1}, \binom{12,2,2,2,2,2,2}{8,6,6,1,1,1,1}, \binom{9,4,4,4,2,2,2}{8,6,3,3,3,3,1}, \binom{15,3,2,2,2,2,2}{10,9,5,1,1,1,1}, \binom{12,6,2,2,2,2,2}{9,8,4,4,1,1,1}, \binom{12,4,4,4,2,2,2}{8,8,6,3,3,1,1}, \binom{12,3,3,3,3,3,3}{9,6,6,4,2,2,1}, \binom{9,4,4,4,4,4,1}{8,6,6,3,3,2,2}$
8	$\binom{10,3,3,3,3,3,3,1}{9,5,5,2,2,2,2,2}, \binom{12,3,3,3,3,2,2,2}{9,6,4,4,4,1,1,1}$
9	$\binom{8,2,2,2,2,2,2,2,2}{4,4,4,4,4,1,1,1,1}, \binom{10,3,3,2,2,2,2,2,2}{6,5,5,4,4,1,1,1,1}$
10	$\binom{9,4,2,2,2,2,2,2,2,2}{8,3,3,3,3,3,1,1,1,1}$

TABLE 1. Primitive solutions of length  $\leq 10$  and size  $\leq 30$

**Conjecture 1.** *A primitive solution to (12) of length 3 is unique.*

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